

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /057 W

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R 150218Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

INFO SECDEF

CIA

DIA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1084

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LA

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

1. U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS IN PAST TWO WEEKS HAS BECOME A MAJOR SUBJECT WHICH LPF REPS RAISE FOR DISCUSSION WITH US. LATEST INSTANCE WAS FEBRUARY 10 MEETING BETWEEN DATT AND PATHET LAO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE KHAMMOUANE BOUPHA. KHAMMOUANE TOOK FORTHRIGHT APPROACH AND REQUESTED U.S. TO PROVIDE ALL MILITARY AID DIRECTLY TO PGNU AND NOT TO FAR. DATT REPLIED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE DONE UNTIL LAO RESOLVED OWN INTERNAL DISPUTES AND THAT THIS DEPENDED UPON THE LAO AND NOT THE USG. WE COULD MAKE NO CHANGES IN METHOD OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE UNLESS WE KNEW WHERE IT WAS GOING AND THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN WE RECEIVED CONFLICTING REQUESTS FROM MINISTER OF DEFENSE SISOUK AND SECRETARY OF STATE KHAMMOUANE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, ONLY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AID TO THE FAR AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

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2. KHAMMOUANE'S NEXT APPROACH WAS THAT IF WE SUPPORTED

THE PGNU WE SHOULD GIVE IT MILITARY SUPPORT. HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PAST SUPPORT BUT IN THE FUTURE. DATT AGAIN MADE CLEAR THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD HAVE TO GET TOGETHER BEFORE WE WOULD CONSIDER CHANGING OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SUPPORT. DATT THEN CORRECTED LPF OFFICIAL'S ASSERTION THAT WE WERE GIVING \$30 MILLION THIS YEAR BY POINTING OUT THAT WE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH WOULD BE AVAILABLE OR WHEN WE WOULD BE TOLD THE EXACT AMOUNT. KHAMMOUANE TRIED TO PIN DATT DOWN ON BREAKOUT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE. IN REPLY, DATT SAID THAT WE COULD NOT DO THIS NOW BUT THAT A ROUGH FIGURE WOULD BE 50 PERCENT FOR RICE AND FUEL WITH THE BALANCE GOING TO PARTS, MEDICINES, CLOTHING, ETC.

4. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, KHAMMOUANE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHEN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WAS FORMED. DATT ANSWERED THAT WHEN THAT HAPPENED WE WOULD RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON, BUT WE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE PROVIDED TO AN INTEGRATED FORCE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS THAT DIFFERENT SENIOR LPF OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH DIFFERENT MISSION OFFICERS (INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR). WHILE THE DISCUSSION HAS BEEN LOW-KEYED, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE LPF HAVE NOW TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THIS QUESTION.  
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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